

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225277

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: DAS LUERS' DEMARCHE TO POLISH AMBASSADOR ON
ZIONISM-RACISM
REF: WARSAW 7422

1. DAS LUERS CALLED IN POLISH AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI ON
SEPTEMBER 5 TO MAKE THE DEMARCHE ON ZIONISM-RACISM
(REFTEL). LUERS BEGAN BY RECALLING HIS EXPRESSION OF HOPE
AT THE US-POLISH ECONOMIC COUNCIL SESSION LAST MAY THAT
THE U.S. AND POLAND COULD TALK MORE CANDIDLY ABOUT
INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THEM. HE
NOTED THAT WE HAVE CLEAR DIFFERENCES OVER THE ISSUE OF
ZIONISM-RACISM AND OBSERVED THAT POLAND HAS AT LEAST NOT
BEEN GENERALLY ACTIVE IN PURSUING THIS "CANARD." HE
CONTINUED THAT IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT THE USG FEELS
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PROFOUNDLY AND SERIOUSLY ABOUT THIS ISSUE. THE ISSUE AND
CHARGE OF RACISM ARE INHERENTLY INFLAMMATORY, THUS EQUATING
ZIONISM WITH RACISM IS NOT HELPFUL TO THE SEARCH FOR PEACE
IN THE MIDDLE EAST. CONSEQUENTLY, IT DISTURBS US
THAT WE SHOULD HAVE DIFFERENCES OVER SUCH AN ISSUE WITH A
COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE HAVE GOOD OVERALL RELATIONS, SUCH AS
POLAND.

2. BEYOND THIS, HOWEVER, LUERS NOTED THAT WE ARE DISTRESSED AT THE LACK OF CANDOR WITH WHICH THIS ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED WITH OUR GOVERNMENT: AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLELE HAD BEEN

ASSURED BY VICE FOREIGN MINISTER KULAGA THAT ZIONISM-RACISM WAS NOT A CENTRAL CONCERN OR ISSUE FOR THE GENEVA U.N. CONFERENCE ON RACISM, BUT TWO DAYS LATER POLAND EMERGED AS A CO-SPONSOR OF THE ZIONISM-RACISM RESOLUTION; WHICH WE FIND OFFENSIVE. LUERS CITED AS POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS THE POSSIBILITY THE CO-SPONSORSHIP HAD BEEN ARRANGED LOCALLY WITHOUT MFA KNOWLEDGE OR THE POSSIBILITY THAT POLAND HAD NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER--WHICH SEEMS UNLIKELY AND WHICH WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IN ANY CASE.

3. LUERS STRESSED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IN ANY EVENT IF WE COULD HAVE GOTTEN A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF POLAND'S POSITION BEFOREHAND. ASKING SPASOWSKI TO CONVEY HIS REMARKS TO THE GOP, LUERS SPECIFIED THAT SPASOWSKI SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE BOTHERED NOT ONLY BY THE POSITION TAKEN BY POLAND AND THE IMPACT IT MIGHT HAVE ON THE WORLD COMMUNITY AND ON EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT BUT ALSO BY THE LACK OF CANDOR SHOWN BY THE GOP IN THIS MATTER, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE REGARD SUCH DISCUSSIONS OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES AS AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
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4. RESPONDING, SPASOWSKI ACKNOWLEDGED HE WAS AWARE OF THE ISSUE AND OF THE SCHAUFLELE-KULAGA CONVERSATIONS. HE PROMISED TO CONVEY IMMEDIATELY LUERS' DEMARCHE. SPASOWSKI OBSERVED THAT ZIONISM-RACISM IS NOT A NEW ISSUE, AND HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD IT HAD ARISEN AT THE CONFERENCE AND GAINED MOMENTUM RAPIDLY (COMMENT: PERHAPS AN INDICATION OF SOVIET MARSHALLING OF POLITICAL FORCES ON BEHALF OF ARAB STATES.)

5. SPASOWSKI SAID HE PERSONALLY DEPLORES ANY INTERNATIONAL POLICY WHICH SPREADS ILL WILL AND NOTED HE HAD MET A FEW DAYS AGO WITH RABBI SCHINDLER CONCERNING THE COMMON CULTURAL HERITAGE OF POLAND AND JUDAISM. SPASOWSKI STRESSED THAT, WHILE THERE MIGHT BE DIFFERENCES ON THE SOLUTION, POLAND WOULD BE THE LAST TO HARM EFFORTS TOWARD A PEACEFUL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT POLISH CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE RESOLUTION HAD NOT BEEN INTENDED IN THIS WAY.

6. LUERS RESPONDED THAT THE U.S. IS ADAMANT ABOUT THIS ISSUE PRECISELY BECAUSE THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME IT HAS

SURFACED IN THE UN CONTEXT. HE STRESSED THAT WE WILL CONSISTENTLY OPPOSE IT AND SEEK WITH LIKEMINDED STATES TO DRIVE THIS CONCEPT FROM ALL UN FORUMS; WE WILL TAKE STRENUOUS MEASURES TO TURN THE UN AWAY FROM THIS PATH.

7. LUERS THEN TURNED THE CONVERSATION TO BILATERAL MATTERS WHICH WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. CHRISTOPHER

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